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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

GOODWIN PROCTER LLP
PATENT ADMINISTRATOR
53 STATE STREET
EXCHANGE PLACE
BOSTON, MA 02109-2881

EXAMINER

SHAAWAT, MUSSA A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3627

DATE MAILED: 03/18/2011

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/081,411	02/20/2002	Avner Schneur	EMT-003	1565

TITLE OF INVENTION: AUCTION MANAGEMENT WITH BUSINESS VOLUME DISCOUNT

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	YES	\$755	\$0	\$0	\$755	06/20/2011

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN <u>THREE MONTHS</u> FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. <u>THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.</u> SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

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If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

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Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE

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Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address) have its own certificate of mailing or transmission. 51414 03/18/2011 Certificate of Mailing or Transmission GOODWIN PROCTER LLP I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below. PATENT ADMINISTRATOR 53 STATE STREET **EXCHANGE PLACE** BOSTON, MA 02109-2881 (Depositor's name (Signature (Date APPLICATION NO. FILING DATE FIRST NAMED INVENTOR ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CONFIRMATION NO. 10/081.411 02/20/2002 Avner Schneu EMT-003 1565 TITLE OF INVENTION: AUCTION MANAGEMENT WITH BUSINESS VOLUME DISCOUNT ISSUE FEE DUE PUBLICATION FEE DUE PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE TOTAL FEE(S) DUE DATE DUE APPLN, TYPE SMALL ENTITY YES \$755 \$0 \$0 \$755 06/20/2011 nonprovisional **EXAMINER** CLASS-SUBCLASS ART UNIT SHAAWAT, MUSSA A 705-026000 3627 1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363). 2. For printing on the patent front page, list (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached. (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required. 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type) PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment. (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY) (A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): \square Individual \square Corporation or other private group entity \square Government 4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above) 4a. The following fee(s) are submitted: lssue Fee A check is enclosed. ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted) Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached. The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number ______ (enclose an extra copy of this fo Advance Order - # of Copies _ (enclose an extra copy of this form). 5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above) ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2). a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Authorized Signature Date Typed or printed name Registration No. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and an apparation. Community is governed by 53 0.3.C. 122 and 57 CFR 1.14. Inis collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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10/081,411	02/20/2002	Avner Schneur	EMT-003	1565
51414 75	90 03/18/2011		EXAMINER	
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PATENT ADMIN 53 STATE STREE			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
EXCHANGE PLA	CE		3627	
BOSTON, MA 02	109-2881		DATE MAILED: 03/18/201	1

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)

(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 1143 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 1143 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (http://pair.uspto.gov).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

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The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

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- 3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
- 4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
- 5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
- 6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
- 7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
- 8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
- 9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/081,411	SCHNEUR ET AL.	
Notice of Allowability	Examiner	Art Unit	
	MUSSA SHAAWAT	3627	
	I WOOOA OHAAWAT	3021	
The MAILING DATE of this communication appear All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RI of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313	(OR REMAINS) CLOSED in or other appropriate community of the community of	n this application. If not included unication will be mailed in due course. TH	
1. \boxtimes This communication is responsive to <u>Board Decision dated</u>	<u>1 01/03/2011</u> .		
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are <u>1-20</u> .			
 3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority ur a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the: 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have 		or (f).	
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have		n No	
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority do	• •		1e
International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).			
* Certified copies not received:			
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONM THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.		a reply complying with the requirements	
4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be subm INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which give			
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") mus	st be submitted.		
(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftspers	on's Patent Drawing Review	v (PTO-948) attached	
1) 🔲 hereto or 2) 🔲 to Paper No./Mail Date			
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Paper No./Mail Date	s Amendment / Comment or	in the Office action of	
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1 each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in t			
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the depo attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT			
Attachment(s) 1. ☑ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	5. ☐ Notice of In	formal Patent Application	
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	6. ☐ Interview S	ummary (PTO-413),	
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),	Paper No.	Mail Date Amendment/Comment	
Paper No./Mail Date 4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit	8. 🛛 Examiner's	Statement of Reasons for Allowance	
of Biological Material	9. ⊠ Other <u>Draw</u>	rings submitted are approved.	

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to BPAI decision dated on 01/03/2011. Claims 1-20 are pending examination.

Drawings

2. Drawings submitted on 02/20/2002 have been accepted.

Examiner's Amendment

- 3. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such amendment, it must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
- 4. Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert Blasi Reg. No. (50,389) on 03/10/2011.
- 5. The application has been amended as follows:
- 1. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for determining an optimal award schedule for satisfying a purchase requisition, the method comprising:

receiving over a computer network, from each of a plurality of candidate suppliers, a corresponding plurality of bids;

receiving, from a candidate supplier over said computer network, an explicit offer of a business-volume discount that is triggered when a purchase from the candidate supplier of at least one unit of a first qualifying item and at least one unit of a second qualifying item has an aggregated volume within a

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defined volume interval; and

determining by a processor an optimal award schedule comprising an optimal combination of <u>candidate</u> suppliers and a list of items to be ordered from each supplier to at least partially satisfy the purchase requisition utilizing the explicit offer of a business volume discount.

- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a business-volume discount offer comprises receiving a business-volume discount offer in which a business-volume discount is triggered on the basis of purchases of items belonging a first category of items and no business-volume discount is triggered on the basis of purchases of items belonging to a second category of items.
- 3. The method of claim 2, wherein receiving a corresponding plurality of bids comprises receiving, from the at least one candidate supplier, a first bid in which each item recited in the first bid belongs to no more that one item-category.
- 4. The method of claim 2, wherein receiving a corresponding plurality of bids comprises receiving, from the at least one candidate supplier, a first bid in which at least one item recited in the first bid belongs to both a first item-category and a second item-category.
- 5. The method of claim 4, wherein determining an optimal award schedule comprises constraining the optimal award schedule such that a purchase of the at least one qualifying item contributes to a business volume discount associated with at most one of the first and second item-categories.
 - 6. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving an offer of a business-volume

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discount comprises receiving a business-volume discount offer that defines a plurality of volume intervals, each of the volume intervals being associated with a corresponding discount to be offered when the volume of an aggregate purchase of at least two qualifying items from the at least one candidate supplier is within the volume interval.

- 7. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving an offer of a business-volume discount comprises receiving a business-volume discount offer in which the defined volume interval has a lower bound defined by a volume threshold and no upper bound.
- 8. (Currently amended) A <u>non-transitory</u> computer-readable medium having encoded thereon software for satisfying a purchase requisition, the software comprising instructions for:

receiving, from each of a plurality of candidate suppliers, a corresponding plurality of bids;

receiving, from a candidate supplier, an explicit offer of a business-volume discount that is triggered when a purchase from the candidate supplier of at least one unit of a first qualifying item and at least one unit of a second qualifying item has an aggregated volume within a defined volume interval; and

determining by a processor an optimal award schedule comprising an optimal combination of <u>candidate</u> suppliers and a list of items to be ordered from each supplier to at least partially satisfy the purchase requisition utilizing the explicit offer of a business volume discount.

9. The computer-readable medium of claim 8, wherein the instructions for receiving a business-volume discount offer comprise instructions for receiving a

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business-volume discount offer in which a business-volume discount is triggered on the basis of purchases of items belonging a first category of items and no business-volume discount is triggered on the basis of purchases of items belonging to a second category of items.

- 10. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the instructions for receiving a corresponding plurality of bids comprise instructions for receiving, from the at least one candidate supplier, a first bid in which each item recited in the first bid belongs to no more than one item-category.
- 11. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the instructions for receiving a corresponding plurality of bids comprise instructions for receiving, from the at least one candidate supplier, a first bid in which at least one item recited in the first bid belongs to both a first item-category and a second item-category.
- 12. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the instructions for determining an optimal award schedule comprise instructions for constraining the optimal award schedule such.
- 13. The computer-readable medium of claim 8. wherein the instructions for receiving an offer of a business-volume discount comprise instructions for receiving a business-volume discount offer that defines a plurality of volume intervals, each of the volume intervals being associated with a corresponding discount to be offered when the volume of an aggregate purchase of at least qualifying two items from the at least one candidate supplier is within the volume interval.
 - 14. The computer-readable medium of claim 8, wherein the instructions for

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receiving an offer of a business-volume discount comprise instructions for receiving a business-volume discount offer in which the defined volume interval has a lower bound defined by a volume threshold and no upper bound.

- 15. The method of claim 1 further comprising imposing, by a party other than a candidate supplier, a private buyer constraint prior to determining the optimal award schedule.
- 16. The method of claim 15 further comprising changing an imposed private buyer constraint and redetermining the optimal award schedule using the changed private buyer constraint.
- 17. The method of claim 1 further comprising storing a supplier profile corresponding to a candidate supplier.
- 18. The method of claim 17 wherein determining an optimal award schedule considers a stored supplier profile corresponding to a candidate supplier.
- 19. The computer-readable medium of claim 8 further comprising instructions for imposing, by a party other than a candidate supplier, a private buyer constraint prior to determining the optimal award schedule.
- 20. The computer-readable medium of claim 8 further comprising instructions for storing a supplier profile corresponding to a candidate supplier.

Reasons for Allowance

6. Claims 1-20 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter.

The closest prior art of a record is Li et al., US PG. Pub. No. (2003/0004850) referred to hereinafter as Li.

LI discloses a computer-implemented method for determining an optimal award schedule for at least partial satisfaction of a requisition includes receiving from a buyer over a computer network, public buyer constraints representative of the requisition. These public buyer constraints are made available to prospective suppliers over the computer network. Candidate suppliers from the set of prospective suppliers then submit bids for analysis by the buyer. This is followed by the determination of an optimal award schedule for at least partial satisfaction of the buyer's requisition (see at least abstract).

The prior art of record teaches the invention as claimed in claim 1, except for "receiving, from a candidate supplier over said computer network, an explicit offer of a business-volume discount that is triggered when a purchase from the candidate supplier of at least one unit of a qualifying item and at least one unit of a second qualifying item has an aggregated volume within a defined volume interval; determining by a processor an optimal award schedule comprising an optimal combination of suppliers and a list of items to be ordered from each supplier to at least partially satisfy the purchase requisition utilizing the explicit offer of a business volume discount". The limitations mentioned above along with the other claimed limitations of independent claims 1 and 8 are novel and unobvious and are deemed allowable over the prior art of record. Furthermore see board decision (pages 4-5) mailed out on 01/03/2011. Claims 2-7 and 9-20 are allowable by dependency.

A search for non-patent literature (NPL) was conducted, however, no relevant NPL prior art was found.

Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee, and to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled Comments on Statement of Reasons for allowance.

Contact Information

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mussa A. Shaawat whose telephone number is 571-272-2945. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8am-5:30pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Florian Zeender can be reached on 571-272-6790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/Mussa A Shaawat/ Examiner, Art Unit 3627 March 10, 2011